Courtroom Etiquette

**Behavior**

Important to behave respectfully

* Show respect for the judges and justices
* Show respect for the lawyers and parties who are arguing before the court
* Rules for members of the media in the courtroom at http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/File/Media/cameras.doc
* Rules for those who are watching the proceedings
* Interrupting court process could find you in contempt of court

**Rules**

* Come into and leave the courtroom or auditorium quietly
* Listen and watch carefully; focus on the details
* Don’t embarrass yourself by yelling out, whistling, or making any other inappropriate noises
* Don’t bring food, gum, or anything to drink
* Don’t talk to your friends during the court session. If you don’t understand something or wish to say something, please save your comments for the break
* Don’t leave the auditorium, unless you feel ill. Please find an adult to help you
* Don’t throw anything
* Don’t bring backpacks or bulky jackets into the courtroom or auditorium
* Don’t bring cell phones or pagers
* Bring a notebook and writing implement so that you may take notes
* Dress as though you were going to court yourself. Absolutely no hats are allowed

**Enforcement**

A bailiff is court employee who keeps order in the courtroom

* Generally one judge’s law clerk
* Keeps track of counsel
* Runs the recording equipment for oral arguments
* Will bang the gavel to begin the court proceedings

**Participants and observers required to stand when court is called to order**

**Required to stand when court is called into recess**